

## **RUMSON RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Sep 18, 2013**

### **Approved Minutes**

#### **Attendance**

Sarah Orsay called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. The following members were present: Bavuso, Chandler, Dengler, and Shanley. Chairman Lembeck and Commissioner MacGillis were absent, as were Council members Day and DeVoe. Commissioner McGinty arrived at 7:38pm.

**Also Present:** Sarah Orsay, Director of Recreation

#### **Public Portion**

No members of the public were present.

#### **Approval of the Minutes**

Ms. Orsay called for approval of the August 23, 2013 Minutes. Mr. Bavuso made motion to approve, Mr. Dengler seconded motion and all approved.

#### **Chairman's Announcements**

None

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Parks**

**General Field Usage Update** - Ms. Orsay reported that all Borough fields were in use Monday-Friday, from 3pm-Dark, by various School, Rec, Travel and permit sport teams. In addition, Rec soccer fully utilizes the fields on Saturdays, while Flag Football uses the RFHRHS turf or Piping Rock field in the morning and travel baseball is utilizing Piping Rock for games on Saturday afternoons. On Sundays, travel soccer utilizes our fields.

**Meadow Ridge** – An accident was reported at the workout area of Meadow Ridge Park on Monday, 9/16. A child seriously injured a finger while playing on the equipment. The parent requested that while it is clear that the area is intended for adult use, we consider fencing off the area with a hinged, locked gate, to deter children from playing on the equipment. Ms. Orsay and DPW Superintendant Mark Wellner reviewed the site, are seeking a bid for a fence and will meet with the manufacturer of the equipment to ensure it is in proper working order.

#### **Programs**

**Soccer** – The Rec season started on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. Rec soccer has 37 teams, Pee Wee to Grade 8, and 25 high school refs. Ms. Orsay plans to offer a local, official certification course in the late spring and also revamp the soccer ref program for next Fall to make sure that our soccer refs are well prepared and engaged. There was also discussion that the pay scale for Rec soccer refs is out of line with other sports and this needs to be addressed.

An issue was raised in the NMSA league that there have been numerous widely imbalanced game scores throughout the League. Ms. Orsay and the other Directors/Coordinators sent an email reminder to all of the coaches reviewing the league rules on this topic and how to prevent a huge score imbalance.

**Flag Football** – We have 24 teams and 16 Refs. The coaches and players seem to be having a great time and Ms. Orsay has heard rave reviews about the refs.

**RFH Rowing** – The season started with 55 athletes and 8 coaches. The team has added Mike Lehman, an experienced collegiate coxswain, as a volunteer senior coach, and former RFH Rower, Chris Duffney, as an Assistant Coach. Ms. Orsay also updated the Commission that RFH Rowing purchased the used 8-person Vespoli shell that they had rented in the spring. In the spirit of further cooperation between the Boroughs of Rumson & Fair Haven, DJ Breckenridge, Fair Haven's Assistant Recreation Director, will work with Ms. Orsay as Assistant Crew Administrator on the Summer and Fall Rec rowing programs.

Dr. Righi, Superintendent of RFHRHS, invited all parents to attend an Oct 2 meeting to hear about a potential high school crew program. It is anticipated that the high school program will be a spring team, launching out of Victory Park and utilizing RFH Rowing's equipment. RFHRHS would have complete control over selection and oversight of all coaches and athletes during this season.

**Travel Soccer** – On-line registrations are 99% completed and the season started September 8.

**Travel Basketball** – On-line registrations are 85% complete and pre-season practices are starting.

### **Special Events**

**Rumson Boat Race** – Ms. Orsay reported that the Rumson Boat Race Governor's Cup, a not-for-profit event led by Dan and Linda Edwards, will take place 9/27-9/28. Net proceeds go to benefit RFH Rowing with the purchase of new equipment.

**Halloween Parade** – the Halloween Parade will be on Thursday, Oct 31, at Victory Park. The children will line up at 3.45pm, march at 4pm and end with a short concert by Yosi. Ms. Orsay is working with guidance counselor Jenn Crow of Forrestdale School to involve 8<sup>th</sup> graders in organizing the event and handing out goodies to children.

**Veteran's Day Ceremony** – the Ceremony will be held on Nov 11 at 11am at the Victory Park Memorial.

**Tree Lighting** – the Annual Tree Lighting ceremony will be on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm.

### **Projects**

**Defibrillators** – Ms. Orsay reported that the state contract has been awarded to LifeSavers, the AED provider who presented to the RC in May 2013. In addition, the Rumson Borough Council approved the RC's proposal of AED installations at our parks and so Ms. Orsay is in the process of ordering AEDs for our parks: two for Meadow Ridge, and one for Riverside, Victory Park, Rogers Park and Piping Rock.

**CPR & First Aid Training** – Now that the AEDs are being installed, the RC would like to offer training to our coaches and families in town. The RC discussed the cost (Red Cross charges \$22 pp, even if Rumson EMS personnel lead class) and suggested Ms. Orsay look into various programs. They also discussed the possibility of offering First Aid in addition to CPR.

**Fencing Workout Area of MRE** – in an effort to discourage children from playing on the workout equipment in the park, Ms. Orsay and Mr. Wellner are investigating fencing off the area.

**Grant Project** – Ms. Orsay confirmed that the grant project that had been discussed in closed session in the August meeting has delayed until 2014.

#### **Administrative**

**Rutgers SAFETY Course** is scheduled for Sep 19<sup>th</sup>. Rumson has 25 new coaches registered for the event.

**Background Checks** – in August the RC re-affirmed their support for the Borough Ordinance that volunteer Recreation coaches should undergo the background check every 3 years. Ms. Orsay said that since inception, we have confirmed checks on approximately 450 coaches, of which 260 will have expired by 12/31/13. Ms. Orsay will look into the possibility of conducting background checks one Saturday in the spring at Bingham Hall.

**Fee Refund Requests** – The established and well publicized Recreation policy has long been “No Refunds, No Transfers,” but nonetheless several refund requests per month arise. Ms. Orsay and Borough CFO Helen Graves have established a procedure whereby they review Recreation Fee Refund Requests once a month on or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and make a determination on the request.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Orsay reviewed the income/expense statement from the CFO report. She indicated that in 2014 they will likely add classifications including Field Use, Continuing Education, Coaches' Certifications, to further delineate how funds are spent.

Unforeseen new expenses will include the new Fence, signage, and equipment for the Meadow Ridge workout area.

#### **Old Business**

**2014 Field & Facility Fees** will be discussed in the October and/or November RC meetings

The RC discussed whether **mouthguards** in Flag Football should be strongly recommended or required. The Commission agreed that it should remain “strongly recommended.”

#### **New Business**

The President of the **Rumson Senior Citizen's Club**, Gina Cesario, approached Borough Administrator Tom Rogers and Ms. Orsay to request an increase of \$500 to a total of \$2000 annual financial support from Rumson Recreation for their programs. Kerry Chandler raised that this motion be passed, Alex Shanley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Sherri Ehrlich of Miss Sherri's music approached Ms. Orsay with a plan to offer **children's music classes** through Rumson Recreation. The Commission discussed it and voted to approve these (and other similar) classes if it is a Rumson Rec sponsored program, i.e., a program in which Rumson Recreation hires and pays the instructor, sets the fees and provides the insurance, the space, the marketing and registration. In other words, Rumson Recreation runs the program rather than acts a conduit for others' for-profit activities. Dan Bavuso raised that this motion be passed, Jim Dengler seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner **Alex Shanley** announced that he would be leaving the Rec Commission to pursue other interests when his term expired at the end of December.

Meeting Adjourned: 8.45pm.